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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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FOR ERLAND HEGINBOTHAM IN VICE PRESIDENTS PARTY

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 6816 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
GENEVA APRIL 28

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 06816

USMIN

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLT FOR HATHAWAY AND STR
FOR WOLFE

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MAJOR EXPORTER REACTION TO US POSITION ON
COARSE GRAINS AGREEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 1O8445, (B) GENEVA 3667

1. DURING INFORMAL "EXPORTERS" MEETING, FRIDAY MORNING APRIL 28, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND ARGENTINA WERE INFORMED OF US WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT ON COARSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GRAINS ALONG LINES INDICATED IN REF (A). ALL EXPORTING NATIONS WERE SURPRISED AND UNPREPARED FOR CHANGE IN US POSITION. SPECIFICALLY, REACTIONS TO WHAT WAS DESCRIBED BY MAJOR EXPORTERS AS A "MAJOR DEVELOPMENT" RE ONGOING WHEAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

2. ARGENTINA: ZORREGUIETA, UNDER SECRETARY FOR

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AGRICULTURE, NOTED THAT THE PROPOSAL TABLED BY
ARGENTINA AT THE RECENT NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE IN GENEVA
(REF B) WAS A FAIR REPRESENTATION OF THE ARGENTINE
POSITION VIZ COARSE GRAINS, I.E., A CONSULTATIVE,
INFORMATION SHARING ARRANGEMENT VOID OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS
OR COMMITTMENTS. ZORREGUIETA EMPHASIZED THAT THEIR
PROPOSAL DID NOT PROVIDE A TRIGGER MECHANISM FOR CON-
SULTATION AND WOULD NOT AGREE TO HAVE AN INDICATION IN
THE AGREEMENT. ZORREGUIETA MAINTAINED THAT ARGENTINA
HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN AN INTERNATIONAL ARRANGE-
MENT ON COARSEGRAINS AND WOULD BE RELUCTANT
TO SUPPORT A PROPOSAL WHICH GOES BEYOND CONSULTATION
MEASURES AS EMBODIED IN THEIR PROPOSAL.

3. AUSTRALIA: MCGOLDRICK, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND RESOURCES, REITEREATED THAT
AUSTRALIA'S INTEREST IN A COARSE GRAINS AGREEMENT WAS
MINIMAL BUT THAT THEY COULD ADOPT A POSITION
CLOSELY IN LINE WITH ARGENTINA'S. MCGOLDRICK WHILE
EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTION DID
IMPLY, HOWEVER, THAT AUSTRALIA UNLIKE ARGENTINA MIGHT
BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN INDICATOR SCALE AS A TOOL FOR
TRIGGERING CONSULTATIONS. ANY SPECIFIC OR IMPLIED
COMMITTMENTS, WOULD CAUSE GREAT POLITICAL DIFFICULTY
DOMESTICALLY AS AUSTRALIA'S CONTROL OVER COARSE GRAIN
MARKETING, IN CONTRAST TO WHEAT, IS DE-CENTRALIZED ON A
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STATE BY STATE BASIS.

4. CANADA: BILL MINER, ASSISTANT DEPUTY SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RESPONDED THAT CANADA
COULD SUPPORT THE ARGENTINE CONSULTATIVE PROPOSAL AND
WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT INCLUSION IN AN AGREEMENT OF
DEFINITIONAL OUTLINES OF GENERAL MARKET STABILIZING
UNDERTAKINGS. SPECIFIC COMMITTMENTS, HOWEVER, WOULD
BE UNACCEPTABLE. WITH RESPECT TO THE CONCEPT OF NOTIONAL
PRICES, OR REFERENCE PRICES WITHIN A COARSE GRAINS
AGREEMENT, CANADA WOULD OPPOSE A BASKET INDICATOR
APPROACH INCORPORATING ALL COARSE GRAINS BUT
MIGHT SUPPORT A PRICE INDICATOR BASED SOLEY ON CORN.
BREWSTER. UNQUOTE VANCE

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